New Legislation for Protection of Plant varieties and Farmers' Rights

1132. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to bring forward a new legislation for the protection of plant varieties and farmers' rights and for the better protection of geographical indication of goods'

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed legislation would extend adequate legal cover against deceptive trade practices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Legislations to protect trademarks and geographical indications have already been introduced in Parliament. Legislation to protect Plant Varieties also under finalisation.

WTO Agreement on Agriculture

1133. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that WTO Agreement on Agriculture, being introduced globally, could spell doom for India's hard-earned self sufficiency in foodgrain production as well as food security going into the hands of the multi-nationals, as reported in Indian Express, dated 17th November, 1999;

(b) whether a nine-member delegation of Indian Farmers going to Seattle has in their report strongly protested against the WTO agreements;

(c) if so, what is Government's of India's reaction thereto; and

(d) in what manner interest of small and marginal farmers is proposed to be protected by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) There have been reports in some sections of the press regarding a report prepared by a nine-member delegation of farmers which went to Seattle. It is not correct to say that the WTO